

CHARTER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

PUBLIC EDUCATION
STAFF: BEN LEISHMAN & EMILY WILLIS

ISSUE BRIEF

SUMMARY

Statute, [53F-2-306](#), provides that charter schools receive \$100 for each enrolled student to help pay administrative expenses. Administrative cost funding is provided by the state to small Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to help offset costs associated with reporting financial and statistical information to the state, as well as, general administrative functions of the LEA.

ISSUE

At \$100 per student, smaller charter schools report difficulties in paying for the administrative costs outlined above. A school with fewer students is required to submit the same information as larger schools, without the budget scale to help absorb the cost.

BASE FUNDING

To help solve the identified funding issues for small charter schools, the Legislature could consider providing a minimum funding base. The table to the right shows all charter schools that are projected to enroll fewer than 400 students in Fall 2019. And, as a result, will receive less than \$40,000 through the administrative cost formula in FY 2020.

A minimum base of \$40,000 per school would provide enough funding to each school to pay at least a part-time employee to conduct administrative functions and submit state reports. The total estimated cost to provide this base funding amount in FY 2020 is \$445,800.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Analyst recommends that the Legislature consider the following:

- Study the role of the State in providing administrative cost funding to small LEAs. This may include the extent state reporting requirements placed on LEAs factor into providing funding for administration.
- Appropriate funding to provide a minimum funding base of \$40,000 for charter schools that enroll fewer than 400 students. The total cost for this adjustment is \$445,800 in FY 2020.
 - In lieu of an ongoing appropriation, the Legislature could provide the State Board of Education authority to use nonlapsing balances in the Charter School Administrative Cost Program and the Charter School Local Replacement Program in FY 2020 while the Legislature studies the issue.
- Amend statute, [53F-2-306](#), to include the \$40,000 minimum base.

Public Education: Charter School Administrative Cost Program			
Estimates to Provide a \$40,000 Base to Schools FY 2020 Projected			
Charter School	Enrollment Projected Fall 2019	Admin. Cost Per Student \$100	Minimum Base \$40,000
Pacific Heritage Acad.	396	\$39,600	\$400
Valley Academy	390	\$39,000	\$1,000
Itineris	389	\$38,900	\$1,100
Tuacahn High	385	\$38,500	\$1,500
Greenwood	385	\$38,500	\$1,500
Dixie Montessori Academy	380	\$38,000	\$2,000
Ranches Academy	370	\$37,000	\$3,000
Edith Bowen	358	\$35,800	\$4,200
East Hollywood High	340	\$34,000	\$6,000
C.S. Lewis Academy	321	\$32,100	\$7,900
Open Classroom	319	\$31,900	\$8,100
Soldier Hollow	318	\$31,800	\$8,200
American Academy of Innovation	314	\$31,400	\$8,600
Salt Lake SPA	310	\$31,000	\$9,000
Mana Academy	310	\$31,000	\$9,000
Beehive Science & Tech	304	\$30,400	\$9,600
Guadalupe Schools	304	\$30,400	\$9,600
Real Salt Lake Academy	300	\$30,000	\$10,000
Leadership Academy of Utah	296	\$29,600	\$10,400
UT International Charter	243	\$24,300	\$15,700
Capstone Classical Academy	240	\$24,000	\$16,000
Fast Forward	236	\$23,600	\$16,400
St. George Academy	205	\$20,500	\$19,500
Roots Charter School	182	\$18,200	\$21,800
City Academy	178	\$17,800	\$22,200
Bear River CS	170	\$17,000	\$23,000
Utah Career Path HS	169	\$16,900	\$23,100
John Hancock	161	\$16,100	\$23,900
InTech Collegiate HS	150	\$15,000	\$25,000
Winter Sports School	114	\$11,400	\$28,600
Moab Charter	95	\$9,500	\$30,500
Uintah River High	72	\$7,200	\$32,800
WSU Charter School	38	\$3,800	\$36,200
Total	81,122	\$874,200	\$445,800